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RAPED

what to do
if it happens
to you

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PRESSING CHARGES. . .

Many women choose not to press charges because of the long court hearings, the painful experience of re-telling the whole story, and the emotional drain of being questioned and requestioned. The choice is yours.

If you do not take all possible medical tests and examinations, you do not have the option to prosecute. You may be able to prevent another woman from being raped if you press charges.

MYTHS. . .

THAT RAPE IS A CHARGE EASILY MADE AND DIFFICULT TO DEFEND AGAINST.

(In 1973 there were an estimated 35,600 sexual offenses committed in Chicago.

Of this number, 833 offenders were arrested, 204 indicted, and only 31 convicted.)

THAT A RAPIST IS A SEXUALLY UNFULFILLED PERSON CARRIED AWAY BY A SUDDEN UNCONTROLLABLE URGE OF DESIRE.

(90 percent of group rapes are planned in advance and 58 percent of rapes committed by a single person are planned.)

THAT RAPISTS ARE SEXUALLY UNFULFILLED.

(Nearly all rapists have available sexual relationships; in fact, 60 percent are married and lead "normal" sex lives at home.)

THAT RAPISTS ARE PATHOLOGICALLY SICK AND PERVERTED MEN. .

(Rapists have normal sexual personalities; they differ in their greater tendency to express violence and rage. Sex is not the motivating factor in rape; it is the chosen mode of expression.)

THAT THE TYPICAL RAPIST IS A STRANGER TO THE VICTIM.

(48 percent of the rapists are known to the victims.)

THAT BLACK MEN RAPE WHITE WOMEN AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY.

(In 93.2 percent of rape cases both the man and the woman were of the same race. Of the remaining 6.8 percent more black women were raped by white men than white women raped by black men.)

THAT A RAPED WOMAN WAS AT FAULT SOMEHOW. . . THAT SHE PROBABLY PROVOKED THE ATTACK.

(Only 4 percent of reported rapes involve any precipitative behavior on the part of the women. In some cases precipitative behavior is nothing more than walking and dressing in a way socially defined as attractive.)

THAT A NORMAL MAN CANNOT RAPE A NORMAL WOMAN UNLESS HE HAS ASSISTANCE.

(A woman may be knocked unconscious or she may submit because she fears for her life if she struggles. Usually the attacker has the advantage of surprise.)

THAT MOST RAPES OCCUR IN DARK ALLEYS OR TO WOMEN WHO HITCHHIKE.

(More than one third of rapes are committed by men who force their way into the victims' homes. More than one half of all rapes committed occur in residences.)

THAT A WOMAN CANNOT BE RAPED BY HER HUSBAND.

(This is a legal fallacy as a direct result of the age-old concept of a woman as the property of her husband. Any act of sexual intercourse to which a woman does not consent is rape.)

THAT WOMEN ENJOY RAPE.

(The very idea that a woman could enjoy being attacked by a man she is not attracted to, that she could enjoy being exposed

to injury or death, that she could enjoy being treated in a humiliating and brutal fashion is preposterous!)

RAPE: SOME PREVENTIVE MEASURES

IN A CAR:

- Don't hitchhike. (If you must, try not to hitchhike by yourself or at night.)
- Don't offer rides to strangers.
- If you are alone in a car, keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up.
- Check the back seat before getting into the car.
- Don't advertise name with license plates.
- Never drive through areas you would be afraid to be stranded in..

IN YOUR HOME:

- Don't broadcast the fact that you live alone or with another woman. List only your last name and initial on the mailbox and in the phone book.
- Never open the door to someone who is unidentified. (Install a peephole, if necessary.) All repair and professional men are required to carry identification.
- Never leave a note on your door explaining that you are away or hide a key outside your home or apartment.
- When hiring a babysitter, inform them of all precautionary rules you follow and insist for their safety and your children's that they follow the rules also.
- Never admit a stranger into your apartment lobby when you are entering or leaving.
- Instruct children old enough to be left alone in safety rules.
- If you find evidence that someone has entered your home, *DO NOT ENTER*; call the police immediately. He might still be there waiting for you.

-When entering your home never leave keys in the door for a minute after opened and don't set purse or keys outside the door while carrying in packages.

WALKING ALONE:

-Don't use alleys and parks as short cuts. Daytime is as potentially dangerous as night in deserted parks and alleys.

-Avoid construction sites, abandoned buildings, bushes, etc. While walking, stay in the center of the sidewalk.

-BE AWARE OF WHAT IS AROUND YOU. Listen for footsteps and voices nearby. If you think someone is following you, head for the nearest lighted or inhabited area. If you fear danger, SCREAM "FIRE" LOUDLY. If you break into a run, make it quick and yell the whole way.

-Weapons should be used only to provide an opportunity to flee. (Possible items are: keys, pen, lighted cigarette, umbrella.) These weapons, however, are ineffective if not in your hand when you need them.

-If someone asks you directions from a car, never go close to them. Stay far enough away so you cannot be reached.

IN BUILDINGS:

-Don't enter elevators alone with a stranger. If you feel the least threatened, get out.

-Stand next to the control panels in an elevator and if accosted, punch emergency buttons and several floor buttons.

ON THE TELEPHONE:

-Never give any personal information to a stranger. Never let someone know you won't be home, or that you are alone.

-If you receive a "wrong number" call never disclose your correct number. Ask what number they called and instruct

them to dial again.

-If you receive an obscene phone call hang up immediately and call the police. If calls persist keep a whistle near the phone and blow into the mouthpiece.

WHATEVER FORM OF DEFENSE YOU CHOOSE BE FAMILIAR WITH IT. PRACTICE IT AT HOME BEFORE YOU START TO RELY ON IT; YOU'LL FEEL BETTER.

BE FAMILIAR WITH YOUR OWN LIMITATIONS

YOU MUST USE YOUR HEAD. FEAR AND PANIC ARE YOUR OWN WORST ENEMIES.

AGENCIES IN SPRINGFIELD

Springfield Rape

Information &

Counseling Service:

753-8081

Sojourn House:

544-2484

Planned Parenthood:

544-2744

(for follow-up care)

CREDITS:

A Planned Parenthood Original

Rape Crisis Center of Bloomington-Normal

Springfield Rape Crisis Line